

CHAMPPS Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2007

Present: Barbara Cimaglio (VDH), Susan Coburn (VDH), Marcia LaPlante (VDH), Jonathan Billings (Northwestern Medical Center), Sue Shephard (DCF, Child Development Div), Kelly Dougherty (VDH), Scott Johnson (AHS), Tom Roberts (Ottauquechee Health Foundation), Alice Christian (VDH) (notetaker), Barbara C. Hanson, (Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging, Governor's Commission on Healthy Aging).

Agenda:

- I. Welcome and Introductions
Barbara Cimaglio
- II. Summary of CHAMPPS proposals received and application review process – Kelly Dougherty
- III. Recommendations for CHAMPPS funding
Marcia LaPlante – SAMHSA-funded proposals (substance abuse)
Kelly Dougherty – General Health and Wellness proposals
- IV. Discussion – Recommendation of Advisory Committee
Barbara Cimaglio
- V. CHAMPPS Evaluation – preliminary discussion
Barbara Cimaglio
- VI. Next Steps
Barbara Cimaglio

Next Meeting June 22, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Place TBA

Welcome and Introductions

Barbara Cimaglio did quick introductions and a review of the agenda.

Barbara C. had spoken with Senator White from the Health and Welfare Committee. The Committee has not yet scheduled hearings on CHAMPPS. There is no push to add more funds at this time. The Governor's proposed budget has level funded the program. She does not know if the Tobacco program will add anything in the second year.

Summary of CHAMPPS proposals received and Application Review Process

Kelly handed out 3 pages:

- 1) Summary of all CHAMPPS applicants
- 2) CHAMPPS proposals by focus area and
- 3) Map of Vermont showing geographic coverage by the applicants.

Summary is as follows:

31 applications (Of these, one was disqualified at the start).

18 Implementation and 12 Capacity Building.

16 General Health & wellness, 5 Substance Abuse, 9 Mixed

For the review process, there was a diverse mix of 25 reviewers, including VDH, Tobacco Review Board, private nonprofits, others in AHS, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, and former Senator Jim Leddy.

Proposals were reviewed by the appropriate program people. Every proposal was reviewed and scored by 5 people. The whole group met all day on March 28 and decided on recommendations.

However, since that time, communication with the business office has revealed that the funding is less than was expected. This is because Fit and Healthy Vermonters was obligated to existing projects, including the statewide programs Girls on the Run and Girls on Track. However, in the following fiscal year, funding has been cut from these programs to be contributed to CHAMPPS. It is important to communicate this implication to the legislature. The Fit and Healthy initiative still exists, but has no funding.

Current funding is

\$500,000 SAMHSA

\$431,714 Other sources

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\$931,714 Total

Recommendations for CHAMPPS Funding

a. SAMHSA-funded proposals (substance abuse) – Marcia LaPlante

Handout with CHAMPPS Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) Award Recommendations. Marcia explained who was recommended for funding and why.

An unusual report from the grant reviewers was to plan to ask all the applicants who were not funded to review/resubmit their applications for the SPF SIG grant in the next few months. This grant is still in the approval process with SAMHSA. ADAP expects to roll over \$275,000 for SPF, but it is not clear if that money will be available, depending on if existing funds are being used. The challenge is that there will always be the constraints of federal funding sources. If money is granted for multiyear implementation grants, will there be additional funds for capacity-building grants in future years? Tom asked if it was possible to roll over funds from SPF grant to the next year of CHAMPPS and this remains an important question.

Noted that this working together approach has been a good learning process and there remains more to understand as the process continues.

b. General Health and Wellness proposals – Kelly Dougherty

Kelly went over the handout listing non-SPF applicants for CHAMPPS. The reviewers used a consistent scoring to rate each applicant and then during a daylong meeting they decided on applicants to recommend for funding to the Commissioner.

Susan discussed one potential applicant for the Fit and Healthy grant funds remaining from the Center for Disease Control that was mentioned in the RFP. This will need to wait until after the Commissioner decides about CHAMPPS grantees.

Susan also asked about technical assistance that could be available to community groups by VDH.

Discussion of Recommendations

Tom took a stab at the numbers for the next fiscal year, and it looks as if there will be more funds available; they are not all tied up in current grantees.

Barbara C. had spoken with Senator White, who said she would like to have a hearing to invite communities to discuss how the CHAMPPS process is working. The hope is that the CHAMPPS grants are more comprehensive; yet there are some tradeoffs. There are still grants that focus only on substance abuse, for example. The idea was to think differently.

It has presented a Catch 22, that the proposal is supposed to be comprehensive, yet have to be realistic and not do too much.

It is the beginning of a process of these groups getting together, and there may be future benefits.

There were commendations of the work done by the VDH staff without resources to fund it.

Recommendation of Advisory Committee

There was not a quorum. However, the Advisory Committee members present supported the recommendations of the grant reviewers.

The timeline is that Commissioner Moffatt will make the final decision and Kelly will notify grantees by April 20. There will be a press release and probably a special announcement by Governor Douglas.

CHAMPPS Evaluation – Preliminary Discussion

The committee is required by the legislation to develop evaluative criteria for grantees and write a report.

Barbara C. suggested a small evaluation work group, building on what has already been done by VDH. Those advisory committee members who wish to participate in the evaluation group should contact Sarah Gregorek by email.

Ideas that came out were an on-site review, common measures to the extent possible, using logic models, and evaluating what the grantees said they would do at a minimum of 6 months. Capacity building grantees would use more process measures.

Marcia brought up that ADAP can share tools for evaluating community coalitions.

It was suggested that grantees should budget for evaluation in their proposals.

It was also asked if it is possible for communities to ask for measures from emerging data that could be available on a town or county level?

ADAP has contracted for the SPF SIG with a national evaluator, Dr. Flewelling, from the Pacific Institute on Research and Evaluation; he might have suggestions on CHAMPPS evaluation.

Next Steps

Next Meeting: Friday, June 22, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Agency of Human Services, Secretary's conference room, Osgood Building, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury

The next quarterly meeting will focus on process evaluation.